

1 VERNON LEON WATTS  
2 06711-097  
3 FCI-HERLONG  
Federal Correctional Institute, Herlong  
P.O. Box 800  
Herlong, CA 96113

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Appearing pro se

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) NO. Cr. No. 93-086 WBS  
Plaintiff, )  
) REQUEST FOR APPOINTMENT OF  
v. ) COUNSEL; [lodged] ORDER  
VERNON LEON WATTS, )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_  
)

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §§ 3006A(c) and 3852(c)(2), Defendant,  
VERNON LEON WATTS, appearing pro se, hereby requests the court to  
appoint counsel to represent him with respect to his motion to reduce  
sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2), filed December 17, 2007.  
CR #132. Mr. Watts requests the Court appoint the Office of the  
Federal Defender and Assistant Federal Defender David M. Porter. Mr.  
Porter was previously appointed by this Court on June 27, 2001 to  
represent Mr. Watts with respect to his motion to vacate sentence  
pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. CR #104. He is familiar with the case  
and is willing to accept the appointment.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This request was drafted by Mr. Porter.

Appointment of counsel would serve the interests of justice in this case because it might facilitate a negotiated disposition of the motion and because the motion might raise novel legal issues surrounding application of the United States Sentencing Commission's recent retroactive reduction of sentences under the crack cocaine guidelines. In addition, Mr. Watts does not have access to the recent amendment and his limited access to the prison's law library would prevent him from effectively representing himself. Finally, given the delays in receiving mail, if he continued to appear pro se, it might be difficult, if not impossible, for him to file a timely reply pursuant to this Court's December 19, 2007 scheduling order. CR #133 (setting a February 8, 2008 deadline for the filing of a reply to the government's response, which is due January 25, 2008). Because Mr. Watts' substantial rights may be affected by these criminal proceedings, he is constitutionally entitled to appointment of counsel. *Mempa v. Rhay*, 389 U.S. 128, 134 (1967).

Accordingly, Mr. Watts requests the Court issue the order lodged herewith.

Dated: December 21, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Vernon Leon Watts

VERNON LEON WATTS

Defendant appearing pro se

O R D E R

Pursuant to defendant's request, and good cause appearing  
therefor, the Office of the Federal Defender and Assistant Federal  
David M. Porter is hereby appointed to represent defendant with respect  
to his motion to reduce sentence.

DATED: December 28, 2007

William B. Shubb  
WILLIAM B. SHUBB  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE